MORTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Kyle L. Kirchmeier, Sheriff

News Release
For Immediate Release
February 13, 2017
Contact: Morton County PIO (701) 426-1587 or (701) 595-3596

Leader of *VeteransRespond* Cited for Drug Possession

Mandan, N.D. – On Feb. 10, a Morton County Sheriff's Department K-9 unit responded to a vehicle that was stopped after traveling beyond the road closure sign on Highway 1806 near Fort Rice. The four occupants included Matthew Crane, co-founder of the VeteransRespond group which is known to be at the Dakota Access Pipeline protest camps. One of the occupants turned over a smoking device identified as a pipe used to ingest marijuana. At that point, all occupants and their luggage were removed from the vehicle and searched by the K-9. A bag of marijuana was located with Crane's name on it. Crane acknowledged that possession of marijuana is illegal in North Dakota. He was cited for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

On Feb. 9, Mobridge, South Dakota Police Department arrested two individuals also associated with VeteransRespond after performing a traffic stop for a Michigan-plated vehicle. During the stop, the officer recognized signs of criminal activity and consent to search was denied. A K-9 unit was deployed and while doing an exterior search, the K-9 positively alerted and indicated drug odor. A search of the vehicle revealed the driver and passenger were in possession of Hash oil, which is considered a controlled substance in South Dakota. The car and protester gear were also confiscated and placed into evidence by the Mobridge Police Department. The VeteransRespond members, Graeme Cabrera and Travis Biolette, were taken into custody and taken to the Walworth County Jail in Selby, SD.

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